

REMARKS:

In the Office Action mailed on July 1, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nelson (6,435,903) and rejected claims 2-4 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a) as being an obvious combination of Nelson and Bowden Jr. et al. (4,775,332). The applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections for the reasons stated below.

In order to sustain a rejection under section 102, all of the elements of the claimed invention must appear in a single reference or to sustain a rejection under section 103 all of the elements must appear in the combination of the references and there must be some suggestion that the elements be combined. None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest a) the front mating end of a movable terminal module projecting from a housing or b) the front flexible contact ends projecting from the front mating end of a movable terminal module body.

Nelson '903 discloses a movable terminal module. However, the front mating end of the outlet body 1 is generally flush with the faceplate 16 and does not project from the housing. Also all of the terminals are shown to be well within the non-conductive housing rather than projecting from the front mating end. Bowden et al. discloses neither a movable terminal module nor terminals with front flexible ends projecting from the front mating end of the module.

Since not all of the elements in the claimed invention appear in any of the cited references, then the rejections under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 (b) and 103 (a) are inappropriate. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all of the claims remaining in this application to grant into a patent.

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Mailing Address
Stephen Z. Weiss
MOLEX INCORPORATED
2222 Wellington Court
Lisle, Illinois 60532
Tel.: (630) 527-4430
Fax.: (630) 416-4962

Respectfully submitted,
MOLEX INCORPORATED

By: 

Stephen Z. Weiss
Registration No. 28,486
Attorney of Record